DEMAND XXXII—Miscellaneous Departments.

Mr. C. Kumara Das: Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 1,740—under Demand XXXII—Miscellaneous Departments. This is for the purpose of boring a tube well at Edapalayam Shooting Camp.

President: I hope hereafter the Government Officers would never make use of the expression 'shooting camp' because no shooting is allowed in that camp.

Mr. C. Kumara Das: Sir, facilities at the Edapalayam camp for supply of water have been inadequate. Recently that situation grew very acute on account of the comparatively low rainfall. It was therefore considered necessary that a tube well should be sunk there. Distinguished visitors may visit that place at any time and sufficient provision for the supply of good water has to be made. Also there was the need for sanitary installations in the camp. It is for these purposes this amount is being asked, for. I request the House to vote this Demand.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,740 under Demand XXXII—Miscellaneous Departments was put and carried.

The demand passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XL—Debt Heads—Advances.

Mr. C. Kumara Das: Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 4 lakhs under Demand XL—Debt Heads—Advances.

This amount is required for the purchase of manures. The allotment of Rs. 4 lakhs in the budget for 1121 ear marked for the purchase of manures has already been spent. Certain amounts which had become due to be paid to the Government of India for manures which they had supplied in the years 1119 and 1120 were expected to be paid before the close of 1120. But the bills for the amounts were received here only after the beginning of 1121. We had to pay the amounts due on these bills amounting to nearly 4 lakhs in the beginning of 1120. There is hardly any balance to purchase manures this year. We have placed orders for a large quantity of manure on the Government of India. We have to make payments very urgently for that purpose. I request the House to sanction this Demand.

Mr. K. S. Joseph: Sir, I oppose the grant, in order to bring to the notice of the House the difficulty experinced by the ryots in this country in the matter of getting manure, particularly with reference to the ground nut oil cakes. At a time when the ground nut oil cakes were selling at about Rs. 120 if I remember

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aright, a ban was placed by this Government on the import of ground nut oil cakes. As a result, the price of ground nut oil cakes rose in the market up to Rs. 180. While in Cochin it was available for some thing less than Rs. 120, much more was the price prevailing here in Travancore. Indeed the Government can explain why there was such a rise in the price of ground nut oil cakes in Travancore when in the neighbouring State of Cochin it was being available for less than Rs. 120, I know one or two leading Dailies in Travancore wrote leading articles on this subject and some individuals to write a few articles. But Government did not seem to have taken any care of them, with the result that just when the ryots required manure most, they had to pay almost half as much again as they otherwise had to pay. It is for Government to explain why they issued such an embargo on the import of ground nut oil cakes in Travancore. And I understand the ban has not been lifted. Also it seems that the Director of Agriculture if he is sympathetic is granting permits for the import of this commodity. It is very difficult to understand why this was done. It is said that Government had with them old stock of ground nut oil cake, and manure which they wanted to sell outright. It is for the Government member to explain this matter. If that is the case, I say it is dangerous to allow Government any more money to pay for manure. When the prices go down they might realise the amounts spent on those commodities from the poor agriculturist. In order to bring this matter before the House I oppose this Demand. If Government does not explain its position properly I would suggest that the House should throw away this Demand.

Mr. Paul A. Thaliath : ഞാൻ ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നു. ഫർട്ടിലൈസറും ഫുഡും വളം വാങ്ങിച്ച ഇനത്തിൽ ഗവൺമെൻറ് ആവശ്യപ്പെടാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് ഫുഡിൽ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവന്നില്ലെന്നും ഫുഡ്-ലാണ് അതു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവന്നതെന്നും, അതുകൊണ്ടാണ്, ഇപ്പോൾ പുതിയ ഡിമാൻറ് കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നുമാണ് ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകേട്ടത്. ഈ സമാധാനം തൃപ്തികരമായില്ലെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളത്. ഫർട്ടിലൈസറും, ഫുഡും വാങ്ങിയ വകയിന്റെ പണം ഇൻഡ്യാഗവൺമെൻറ് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടില്ലായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ കൊടുക്കാതെ കഴിക്കാമായിരുന്നു എന്നാണോ ഗവൺമെൻറ് വിചാരിച്ചത്? അങ്ങിനെ അല്ലായിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ഫുഡ്-ലെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ ഈ തുകകൂടി ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുമായിരുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യാതെ ബഡ്ജറു് ഉണ്ടാക്കിവച്ചിട്ട്, ആ തുകയിൽനിന്നും

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[Mr. Paul A. Thaliath.]

ഫ ഫ ഫൻ_ലേയും ഫ ഫ ഫ_ലേയും വളത്തിനുള്ള വില കൊടുത്തുപോയി എന്നു പറയുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. ആ തത്വത്തിന്മേൽ ഞാൻ ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നു.

Mr. C. Kumara Das: Sir, reference has been made to the ban on the import of ground nut oil cake into Travancore. Government did not impose any ban. There was only restriction whereby any quantity of cake that was required had to be obtained through a permit issued by the department. I may assure the members there was no instance of refusal for the grant of permit to anybody.

Mr. K. S. Joseph: I know of cases when a permit was asked for it was refused. I have also represented that matter before Government.

Mr. C. Kumara Das: I have not received any such reports. But wherever permits were asked for, they were given. The idea in restricting exports through permit was to keep track of arrivals of the ground nut oil cake so that Government or the Department may know at what rates they were being sold. It was just a sort of protection against black marketing that was aimed at. Government also had stocks of cakes and it may be that there was some slight difference between the price for which the Government sold the cakes and the price at which it was sold in Cochin. But the point was when no cakes were available for sale to the people, Government spent a large amount for procuring that and those prices had to be realised. Government did not make any profit in so doing. Even though exhorbitant prices were current in the nieghbourhood, Government were selling at lower rates during the period referred to by the honourable member.

Mr. K. S. Joseph: May I know the amount at which they were selling the oil cakes?

Mr. C. Kumara Das: At present the figures are not available.

As for the payments to be made during the years 1119 and 1120 I should ask the honourable members to bear in mind these facts, namely that the budget was prepared in Medom and the bills from the Government of India were expected before Karkadagam. But the bills were actually received here after the commencement of the year, and accordingly the amounts were paid from the budget of 1121. It is for meeting payments in the current year for bills

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which may be received during the course of the year, that this additional grant is asked for.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs under Demand XL—Debt Heads—Advances was put and carried.

The demand was passed and the grant was made.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. S. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I move that the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts for the year 1119 be taken up for consideration.

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panickar: Sir, I second it.

Mr. N. Narayana Kurup: The main feature of this report is the recommendation to the Government, that no authorisation shall be resorted to where supplementary grants could be voted and secondly that the tendency of allowing grants authorised or voted to lapse with out being spent on the budgetted works should be discouraged. The Committee has pointed out that the Public Works Department is the greatest sinner in this respect. They are getting the largest amount possible and allowing that amount to lapse. The State Transport department comes second, I am perfectly one with the Committee in its recommendations. These departments behave like greedy children to get who wish the largest share of the food in the house without knowing whether they could assimilate the same. The Committee has pointed out that the budgetting for these Departments is defective and that it should not be repeated.

I shall now show Sir, that the lethargy of the Public Works departments is inexcusable by quoting one or two instances. The culvert in the Main Road just south of the Attingal junction has been damaged some months ago. The department has not done any work till then to reconstruct. Again, the newly cut river at Chakkulam in Thalavady is dried up as the bed level of the newly cut river is above the bed levels of the rivers on either side. This means irresponsible Supervision. The Department carries out as little work as possible. It does not spend even a reasonable proportion of the Budget allotment. If it does not spend any amount in one year, it will be carrried over and added to next year's fund and so on, and it goes on for three years. If after the three years, the whole amount accumulated were to lapse the department and the expert who has been brought down must be said to have failed in their duty. But to the people of the State, it will be a great loss as no new work or work in progress is being done.

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